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Patentanmeldung Nr.   Patent application No.   Demande de brevet n°

00128497.5

Der Präsident des Europäischen Patentamts;
Im Auftrag

For the President of the European Patent Office

Le Président de l'Office européen des brevets
p.o.

I.L.C. HATTEN-HECKMAN

DEN HAAG, DEN
THE HAGUE,   22/08/01
LA HAYE, LE

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Sheet 2 of the certificate
Page 2 de l'attestation

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Application no.:   **00128497.5**
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Anmelder:
Applicant(s):
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Bezeichnung der Erfindung:
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Titre de l'invention:
    Automated content publishing

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DESCRIPTION

Automated Content Publishing

The invention relates to a method of operating a computer system
as well as to a computer system comprising at least one content
provider which is coupled to a portal which may be coupled to a
user.

If a new content provider wants to offer a new content to a
portal or if a known content provider wants to offer a new feed
or channel to the portal, then it is necessary that the portal
examines the new content provider or the new feed or channel. In
known computer systems, this examination is performed manually,
i.e. by an administrator who is a real person and who checks the
new content provider or the new feed or channel and who then
accepts or rejects the new content provider or the new feed or
channel. Apparently, this procedure requires a lot of manual
effort.

It is therefore an object of the invention to provide a method of
operating the computer system which requires less effort for
allowing the new content provider to offer the new content to the
portal and for allowing the known content provider to offer the
new feed or channel to the portal.

This object is solved according to the invention by the method of
claim 1. As well, the object is solved according to the invention
by the computer system of claim 10.

The invention provides an automated method of registering a new
content provider. As well, a new feed or channel of a known
content provider may be registered automatically. For that
purpose, the portal comprises a database for storing credentials
of registered content providers. The portal then compares the
credentials of the new content provider with the credentials of
the registered content providers.

If the new content provider is found in the database, the new content provider is allowed to offer new content to the portal.

If there is no match, the portal examines the credentials of the new content provider. This evaluation may be performed fully automatically by an intelligent program with a rule database. Alternatively or additionally, the evaluation may be done semi-automatically by an administrator who is a real person.

Depending on the evaluation, the portal accepts or rejects the new content provider.

A similar procedure may be performed for a new feed or channel of a known content provider.

As well, a similar procedure may be performed with respect to the new content as such which is offered by the new content provider or on the new feed or channel. In this situation, the new content may be evaluated fully automatically by an intelligent program again or semi-automatically by an administrator.

Furthermore, it is possible that the portal learns the preferences of the user from what the user selects and declines. Depending on these preferences, it is possible to notify the new content or the new feed or channel automatically to the user.

Further embodiments and advantages of the invention are described in the following description of the drawings,

Figure 1 shows a computer system of the invention and figure 2 shows a schematic block diagram of the inventive method of operating the computer system of figure 1.

Figure 1 shows a computer system 10 comprising a number of content providers 11, 12, 13 and a portal 14. The content providers 11, 12, 13 provide any kind of content like news, whether, stock quotes and so on. The portal 14 collects this

content from the content providers 11, 12, 13 in order to forward the collected content to a requesting user. The content providers 11, 12, 13 and the portal 14 are located on server computers which run under the Hypertext Transmission Protocol (HTTP) so that the content providers 11, 12, 13 and the portal 14 may therefore connect to each other via the Internet.

It is now assumed that the content provider 13 is a new content source for the portal 14, i.e. is not yet known to the portal 14. In order to offer this new content source to the users, the portal 14 must first register the new content provider 13 and must then check the content provided by the new content provider 13.

Figure 2 shows a method for registering the new content provider 13 and for checking the content provided by the new content provider 13. For that purpose, the new content provider 13 is shown in figure 2.

The new content provider 13 may find the portal 14 e.g. with the help of the Universal Description, Discovery and Integration (UDDI) interface which the portal 14 provides in the Internet. From this UDDI interface, the new content provider 13 may collect all necessary information on how to contact the portal 14.

Then, the new content provider 13 contacts a content provider registration 15 at the portal 14 and sends its credentials to the portal 14. The credentials of the new content provider 13 are compared to the credentials of the registered content providers which are stored in a database 16 in the portal 14. As the new content provider 13 is not known to the portal 14, no corresponding credentials can be found. Therefore, an administrator 17 has to approve the new content provider 13.

The aforementioned administrator 17 can be a real person who checks the credentials of the new content provider 13 and then accepts or rejects the new content provider 13. As well, the

administrator 17 can be an intelligent program with a rule database which automatically checks the credentials of the new content provider 13 and establishes a decision whether to accept or reject the new content provider 13. Of course, the last-mentioned fully automated version can additionally be accomplished by a real person.

If the new content provider 13 is approved by the administrator 17, the credentials of the new content provider 13 are stored in the database 16 of the registered content providers credentials. Furthermore, an authentication and authorization 18 is given to the new content provider 13 to provide its content to the portal 14.

It should be added that the subsequently described procedure is also applicable if the content provider 13 would not be new, but would be known to the portal 14.

With the help of a publish service 19 of the portal 14, the content provider 13 sends information to the portal 14 concerning the new content which the content provider 13 can offer and which therefore can be published by the portal 14. This information is stored in a portal content queue 20 in the portal 14.

The administrator 17 then checks the information stored in the portal content queue 20 and accepts or rejects the new content offered by the content provider13. This evaluation of the new content is performed within a content management 21 in the portal 14. The accepted new content of the content provider 13 is then stored in a portal content catalogue 22. Furthermore, a message of the decision of the administrator 17 is sent to the content provider 13.

It has to be added that the administrator 17 can be a real person in a semi-automated version and/or an intelligent program in a fully automated version.

The entire available content of the portal 14 is then assembled into a portal configuration 23. A user 24 may then select any desired content from this portal configuration 23. The selected content is requested by the user 24 from the content provider 13 which sends the requested content with the help of a portlet 25 as a portal aggregation 26 to the user 24. The user 24 may then view the requested portal aggregation 26 on his/her computer system. The communication between the user 24 and the portal 14 may be performed via the Internet so that a known browser is sufficient for the user 24 to view the content received from the portal 14.

Alternatively or additionally, a notification service may be established within the portal 14. For that purpose, a database 27 may be built up which learns the preferences of the user 24 from what the user 24 selects and declines. If the new content of the content provider 13 is added to the portal configuration 23, a message may be sent to the user 24 if this new content matches with the preferences of the user 24. The user 24 may then access the new content without having to find and select the new content in the portal configuration 23.

The same method may be used for introducing a new feed or channel of a known content provider 11, 12, 13 into the portal content catalogue 23 and the portal configuration 24. For this purpose, the database 16 may comprise further credentials concerning the feeds or channels of the content providers 11, 12, 13. The credentials of any new feed or channel is then added to the database 16.

Claims

1.   A method of operating a computer system (10) wherein said computer system (10) comprises at least one content provider (11, 12, 13) which is coupled to a portal (14) which may be coupled to a user (24), and wherein said method comprises the following steps: the content provider (13) offers a new content to the portal (14), the portal (14) compares credentials of the content provider (13) with stored credentials of registered content providers, and the portal (14) accepts or rejects the content provider (13).

2.   The method of claim 1 wherein the credentials of the content provider (13) are offered to the portal (14) together with the new content.

3.   The method of one of claims 1 or 2 wherein the credentials of the registered content providers are stored in a database (16) of the portal (14).

4.   The method of one of claims 1 to 3 wherein the comparison of the credentials is performed automatically with an intelligent program with a rule database.

5.   The method of one of claims 1 to 4 wherein the comparison of the credentials is performed manually.

6.   The method of one of claims 1 to 5 comprising the following further steps: the portal (14) checks the new content, and the portal (14) accepts or rejects the new content.

7.   The method of claim 6 wherein the evaluation of the new content is performed semi-automatically or fully automatically.

8.   The method of one of claims 6 or 7 wherein the user (24) is notified about the new content if the new content matches with preferences of the user (24).

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9.   A computer program or a computer program product which is suitable to perform the method of one of claims 1 to 8 it is loaded into a computer.

10.   A computer system (10) comprising at least one content provider (11, 12, 13) which is coupled to a portal (14) which may be coupled to a user (24) wherein the content provider (13) comprises means for offering a new content to the portal (14), wherein the portal (14) comprises means for comparing credentials of the content provider (13) with stored credentials of registered content providers, and wherein the portal (14) comprises means for accepting or rejecting the content provider (13).

11.   The computer system (10) of claim 10 wherein the portal (14) comprises a database (16) for registered content provider credentials.

12.   The computer system (10) of one of claims 10 or 11 wherein the content providers (11, 12, 13), the portal (14) and the user (24) are coupled via the Internet.
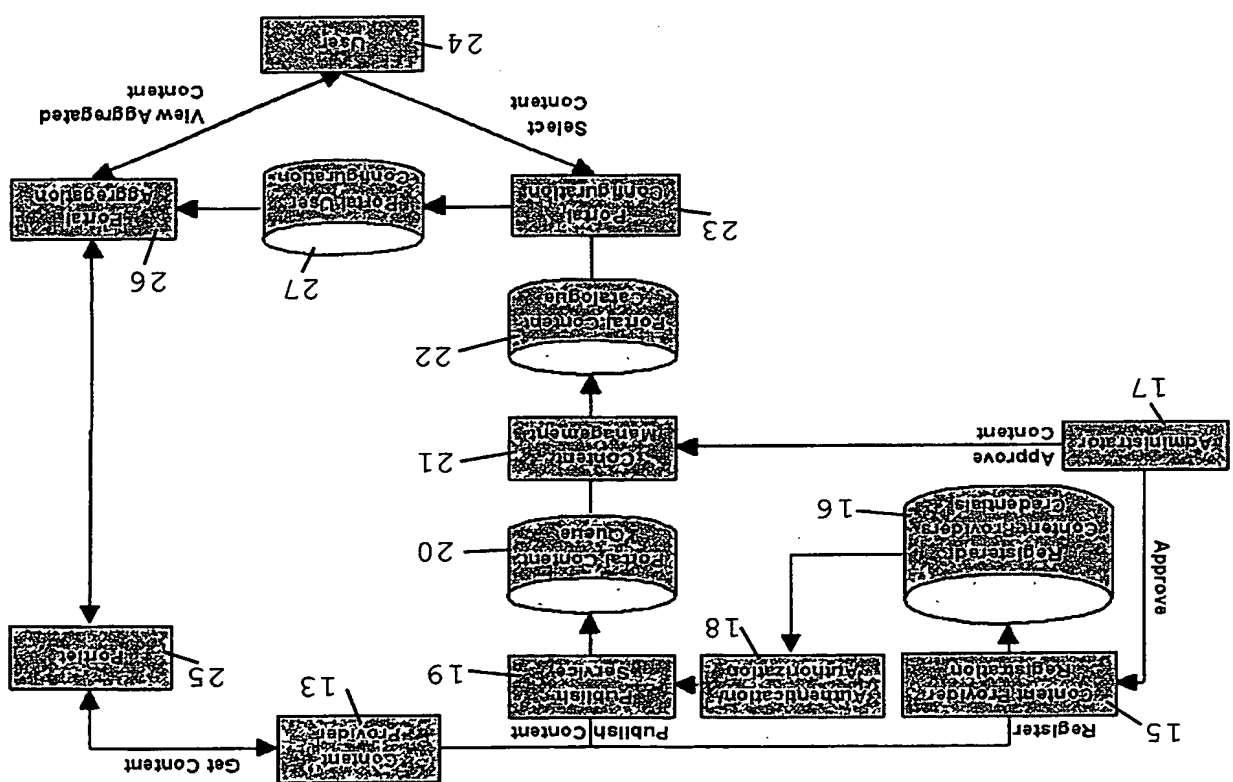
A B S T R A C T

A method of operating a computer system (10) is described. Said
computer system (10) comprises at least one content provider (11,
12, 13) which is coupled to a portal (14) which may be coupled to
a user (24). The method comprises the following steps: the
content provider (13) offers a new content to the portal (14),
the portal (14) compares credentials of the content provider (13)
with stored credentials of registered content providers, and the
portal (14) accepts or rejects the content provider (13). As
well, the portal (14) checks new content and accepts or rejects
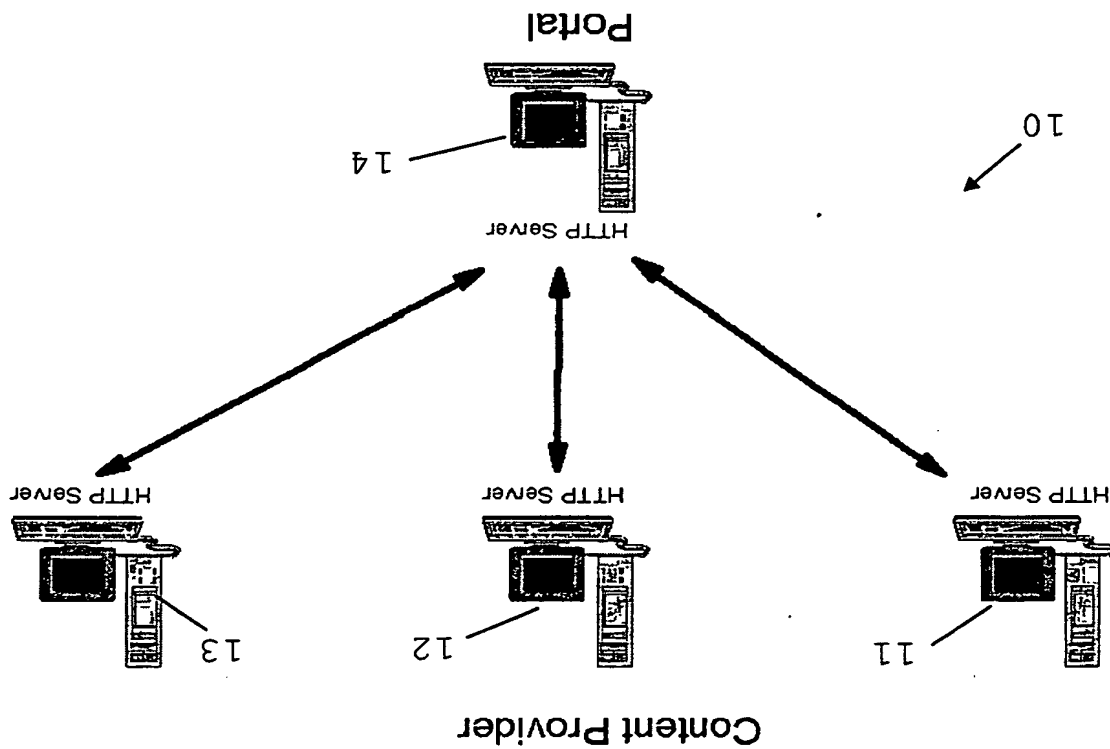the new content.
(Figure 2)

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FIG. 1

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